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Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 6, and 9 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strike through~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). A complete listing of the claims are listed below with proper claim identifiers.

Proposed Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the tobacco rod having regions of different rod density including a first end having a densified region of a first density and a first longitudinal length, a second end having a densified region of a second density and a second longitudinal length, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends having a third density, the first end being the lit end and the second end being the filter end,

wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the third density of the intermediate portion, and

wherein the first end and the second end are both adjacent the intermediate portion.

Alternate Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the tobacco rod having regions of different rod density ~~including~~ consisting essentially of a first end having a densified region of a first density and a first longitudinal length, a second end having a densified region of a second density and a second longitudinal length, and an intermediate portion between the first and second ends having a third density, the first end being the lit end and the second end being the filter end,

wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the third density of the intermediate portion.

2. (Cancelled).

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3. (Original) The cigarette rod product of claim 1, wherein the first longitudinal length is about 11 mm and the second longitudinal length is about 8 mm.

4. (Original) The cigarette rod product of claim 1, wherein the tobacco rod has a length of about 68 mm.

5. (Cancelled).

Proposed Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the lit end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the filter end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, wherein the densified region of the lit end is of greater density than that of the filter end and the densities of the densified regions of both the lit and filter ends are greater than the density of an intermediate portion of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the lit end and the filter end, and
wherein the lit end and the filter end are both adjacent the intermediate portion of the tobacco rod.

Alternate Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product with a lit end and a filter end ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the lit end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the filter end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, wherein the densified region of the lit end is of greater density than that of the filter end and the densities of the densified regions of both the lit and filter ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the lit end and the filter end.

7. (Original) The cigarette rod product of claim 6, wherein the tobacco rod has a length of about 68 mm, the first longitudinal length is about 11 mm and the second longitudinal length is about 8 mm.

8. (Cancelled).

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Proposed Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper and having first and second ends, the first end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the second end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, ~~the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length,~~ wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the first and second ends, and

wherein the first end and the second end are both adjacent the tobacco rod between the densified regions.

Alternate Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A cigarette rod product comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in cigarette paper, the rod of tobacco consisting essentially of and having first and second ends, the first end having a densified region of a first longitudinal length, the second end having a densified region of a second longitudinal length, the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length, ~~the first longitudinal length being greater than the second longitudinal length,~~ wherein the densified region of the first end is of greater density than that of the second end and the densities of the densified regions of both the first and second ends are greater than the density of the tobacco rod between the densified regions of the first and second ends.

10.(Original) The cigarette rod product of claim 9, wherein the first end is a lit end and the second end is a filter end.

New Claim 11. (New) A cigarette rod product comprising a rod of tobacco wrapped in a cigarette paper, the rod of tobacco having two ends and consisting essentially of a first segment, a second segment, and a third segment each having a substantially non-varying density:

the first segment being disposed at one end having a highest density;

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the second segment disposed at the opposing end having a second highest density; and

the third segment contiguous with the first and second segments, the third segment having a lowest density.

New Claim 12. (New) A cigarette rod product having a lit end and a filter end comprising a rod of tobacco consisting essentially of three contiguous segments of different densities: a first segment at the lit end having a highest density, which is contiguous with a second segment having a lowest density, which is contiguous with a third segment at the filter end having a density between the highest and lowest densities.

New Claim 13. (New) The cigarette rod product of claim 12, wherein the first segment has a first longitudinal length greater than a longitudinal length of the third segment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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